

3. All standards medical facilities are available in the Armed Forces Hospitals. Modernisation and upgradation of hospitals is an on going process. Recently, the Government have also approved a scheme for procuring specialised medical equipment for the Armed Forces Hospitals at a cost of over Rs. 66 crores.

[Translation]

Complaint Advisory Board

1345. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a 'Complaint Advisory Board' has been constituted in the office of the Chief of Army Staff to consider the complaints of the serving personnels;

(b) if so, whether the number of complaints has increased during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) A Complaints Advisory Board was constituted in the office of the Chief of the Army Staff in February, 1986 to consider the complaints of serving personnel primarily pertaining to career matters such as supersession and perceived adverse or low gradings/remarks in Annual Confidential Reports, etc. During the last three years, there has been a marginal annual increase in the number of complaints. The details are given below :

Year	No. of complaints
(a) 1993	1393
(b) 1994	1589
(c) 1995	1653
(d) 1996 (upto October, 1996)	1261

2. The marginal annual increase in the complaints are due to the following reasons :

(i) Decreased inhibition in putting up complaints.

(ii) Increased career aspirations.

This can also be interpreted as increased as increase of faith in the grievances redressal system.

Indians in Foreign Jails

1346. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAJ
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Indian soldiers and citizens are still imprisoned in foreign jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on November 30, 1996 country-wise;

(c) the action taken or being taken by the Government for the early release of these prisoners; and

(d) the number of Indians got released from foreign jails during the last two years and till November 1996 as a result of the efforts made by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). The information available with Government till June, 1996 regarding number of Indian soldiers and citizens in foreign jails is at Annexure 'A'. Information, as on November 30, 1996 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) As soon as the Mission/Post comes to know about the arrest of an Indian national, a request is made to the concerned authorities for seeking consular access to the Indian national under arrest. The Consular Officer visits the detainee to ascertain the grounds and circumstances leading to his arrest. Where necessary the Mission takes up the matter at a higher level with the host Government for speedy and fair trial or review of sentence so that early release can be undertaken. The Indian Missions/Posts abroad also take care to see that Indian detainees are treated properly while in jail.

(d) The information available with Government till June, 1996 regarding number of Indians released from foreign jails is enclosed as Statement. Information, as on November 30, 1996, is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Mission	Indians in Foreign Jails		Indians Released from foreign jails during last 2 years
		Soldiers	Civilians	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Afghanistan	nil	nil	nil
2.	Algeria	nil	nil	nil
3.	Angola	nil	nil	nil
4.	Argentina	nil	nil	3
5.	Australia	nil	5	11
6.	Austria	nil	74	63
7.	Bahrain	nil	82	nil
8.	Bangladesh	nil	491	nil
9.	Belarus	nil	3	nil
10.	Belgium	nil	nil	nil
11.	Bhutan	nil	60	87
12.	Belize	nil	nil	nil
13.	Bolivia	nil	nil	nil